

Office of Assistant Treasurer U. S.,

NEW YORK CITY,

February, 1875

Dear Mr. Swoden

Director U. S. Mint Phila

Dear Sir

A doubt being
entertained at this office
as to the genuineness of the
the enclosed three cent nickel
coins, please have them
tested by your expert
and let us have the
benefit of his opinion regarding
them

Very Respectfully,
P. D. Gilgier Redemption Clerk

141

Office Asst Sec. U.S.
New York
Feb 6/80

P.D. Gulagoo
Redemption Book

Sends 3 of which
for examination

(Assays Report
filed herein)

Recd Feb. 7th 1880

Mint of the United States, at Philadelphia,

Assay Department.

For a reply to Asst Treas's Office, N.Y.

The five 3-cent pieces sent for examⁿ. are all genuine, & herewith returned.

The only piece liable to suspicion, is one which weighs $36\frac{1}{2}$ grains (wrapped by itself.) The legal weight is 30, with allowance of 2; which we often ^{use} take in order to have a better body of metal. We cannot, however, attain the same precision as in gold and silver, the nickel alloy being harder to work. However, this piece is genuine, with this apology. Generally, we believe they are about 30 to 32.

The fives and the threes (nickel) each have a ready test, for most cases. On the 5, the counterfeiters make poor letters, specially the W, in WE. - On the 3, which is a fac-simile produced by drop-dies from genuine pieces, the impression on the head side is dull and weak, the piece is slightly dishing, and the word LIBERTY is almost entirely wanting. This alone is a ^{sufficient} ~~good~~ test. - They run all ways as to weight, some much too heavy, others as much too light.

As there is nothing like seeing a specimen,
we send one, the best we can find. Please
return it, as (happily) they are very scarce,
we want them for comparison. D.

Another good test for the 3c piece 'it may
be as well to mention, being so very ready—

The counterfeiters do not pose their dies as
the Mint does, so that the head and tail
do not stand right, relatively. This will be
understood by practical observation.

Will it not be well to caution ~~the~~
our corresp^t against giving any of these
details to the public. They help nobody
but experts, & make people shy of taking
coins, when there is no occasion.

The very worst remit we have had,
for redemption (3 x 5) was a collection
from bakers, & the loss on them was
just about one per cent., of value.

[Letter One:]

[Abstract:] Sends 3¢ nickels for examination. 141

Office of Assistant Treasurer U.S.,
New York City,
February 6, 1880

Hon. Mr. Snowden
Director U.S. Mint Phila.

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Very Respectfully &c.
P.D. Gulager
Redemption Clerk

[Letter Two:]

Mint of the United States, at Philadelphia,
Assay Department.

For a reply to Asst. Treasurer's Office, N.Y.

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Will it not be well to caution our correspondent against giving any of these details to the public. They help nobody but experts, & make people shy of taking coins, when there is no occasion.

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